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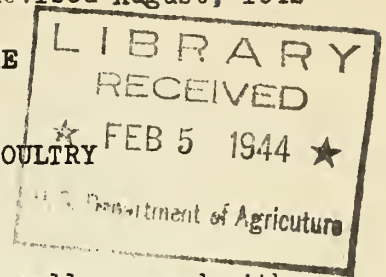
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Food Distribution Administration



TENTATIVE U. S. STANDARDS FOR GRADES FOR LIVE POULTRY

U. S. Grade A. Birds of this grade --

Must be vigorous, well fleshed; full feathered, and well covered with evenly distributed fat. Must be soft meated, if of a class in which soft meat is a requirement. May have slight flesh bruises, skin bruises, abrasions, or discolorations, but not on the breast. Must be free from broken bones, tears, deformities, or external evidence of disease.

Tolerance: Each lot will be allowed a maximum tolerance of 24 percent of U. S. Grade B birds and 1 percent of U. S. Grade C birds, provided that no single container has an excess of 30 percent of U. S. Grade B birds nor more than one bird of U. S. Grade C.

U. S. Grade B. Birds of this grade --

Must be fairly well fleshed, fairly well feathered, and fairly well covered with fat. Must be soft meated, if of a class in which soft meat is a requirement. May have slight flesh bruises, skin bruises, abrasions, or discolorations, but no more than three (3) such defects if on the breast. May have only slight deformities, but must be free of broken bones, tears, or external evidence of disease.

Tolerance: Each lot will be allowed a maximum tolerance of 20 percent of U. S. Grade C birds, provided that no single container has an excess of 25 percent, U. S. Grade C birds.

U. S. Grade C. Birds of this grade --

May be poorly fleshed, poorly feathered, and poorly covered with fat. May have scratches, tears, bruises, or one broken bone, provided that these defects do not cause any appreciable part of the carcass to be unfit for food. May be deformed if fairly well fleshed. Must be free from emaciation or any condition that would render them unfit for food.

Tolerance: None.

REJECTS. Birds below U. S. Grade C shall be classified as "Rejects."

NOTE: The grader should state on the grading certificate the breed, average weight, and range in weights, together with Class and Grade designations on the following classes: Chickens, Pullets, Capons, Capon-Slips, Stags, Fowl, and Cocks. The average weight and range in weights should be stated together with the grade and age classification on Turkeys.

TENTATIVE U. S. CLASSES FOR LIVE POULTRY

CLASSES	
CHICKENS	: Young, soft-meated chickens of either sex, with flexible breast bones.
PULLETS	: Young female chickens with soft, flexible breast bones.
CAPONS	: Unsexed male birds showing practically no comb or spur development and with profuse tail, saddle, and hackle plumage.
CAPON-SLIPS	: Incompletely caponized male birds, with comb, spur, and flesh development similar to that of stags which, for grading purposes, are classed as stags or roasters, depending upon the tenderness of flesh.
STAGS	: Male birds with flesh slightly darkened and toughened and with comb and spur development showing the bird to be in a state of maturity between roasting chickens and cocks.
FOWL	: Mature, female chickens with hardened breast bones.
COCKS	: Mature, male chickens with hardened breast bones.
TURKEYS	: Young Hens - Immature female turkeys with flexible breast bones.
	: Young Toms - Immature male turkeys with flexible breast bones.
	: Old Hens - Mature female turkeys with hardened breast bones.
	: Old Toms - Mature male turkeys with hardened breast bones.
DUCKS	: Young - Immature ducks with easily dented windpipes.
(MUSCOVY AND	:
ALL OTHER	: Old - Mature ducks with rigid windpipes.
BREEDS)	:
GEESE	:
(CHINESE OR	: Young or old of either sex.
SWAN AND ALL	:
OTHER BREEDS)	:
GUINEAS	: Young - Immature guineas of either sex with flexible breast bones.
	: Old - Mature guineas of either sex with rigid breast bones.
SQUABS	: Immature pigeons of either sex.
PIGEONS	: Mature hard-meated pigeons of either sex.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS USED IN THE TENTATIVE
U. S. STANDARDS FOR GRADES FOR LIVE POULTRY

VIGOROUS BIRDS	- Birds having a healthy appearance with bright red combs and soft, glossy skin.
WELL FLESHED	- Birds which, for their class, show good flesh covering over all parts of the body.
WELL COVERED WITH FAT	- Birds which, for their class, show a good, evenly distributed covering of fat over the entire body.
FULL FEATHERED	- Birds having full feather growth over all parts of the body.
FAIRLY WELL FEATHERED	- Birds showing a scattering of pin feathers over the body.
POORLY FEATHERED	- Birds showing a definite pinny condition over all parts of the body or birds with "barebacks."
DISCOLORATION	- Discolorations of the skin including the condition commonly known as "Blue Back," which may be caused by feather packing, sunburn, etc.
SLIGHT DISCOLORATION	- A discoloration that extends not more than one (1) inch forward from the tail of the bird.
DEFINITE DISCOLORATION	- A discoloration that extends not more than three (3) inches forward from the tail of the bird.
PRONOUNCED DISCOLORATION	- A discoloration that extends more than three (3) inches forward from the tail of the bird.
SKIN ABRASION	- A roughened and reddened outer skin caused by rough handling.
SKIN BRUISE	- A bruise of the skin resulting in the formation of a blood clot under the skin that does not extend into the flesh.
FLESH BRUISE	- A bruise extending through the skin and resulting in a blood clot in the flesh.
SLIGHT FLESH AND SKIN BRUISES OR ABRASIONS	- A bruise or abrasion that does not exceed one-half (1/2) inch in diameter.
SLIGHT DEFORMITIES	- Dented or notched breast bones, slightly crooked backs, or somewhat misshapen wings or legs.
DEFORMED BIRDS	- Hunchbacks, crooked breast bones, or other definite deformities which are not natural in normal birds.

APPRECIABLE PART OF
CARCASS INEDIBLE

- As defined in these grades shall mean an entire leg, an entire wing, one quarter (1/4) or more of the breast, or an amount equal to one quarter or more of the entire carcass, which is unfit for food.

INEDIBLE OR UNFIT
FOR FOOD

- As used in these grades shall mean, gangrene, tumors, abscesses, bruises showing serious discoloration, or similar conditions.

REJECTS

- Birds that show evidence of a sick condition, severe injury, emaciation, or any condition that renders them unfit for food; also birds afflicted with the following diseases: (1) Roup (catarrhal or diptheretic); (2) Infectious Bronchitis; (3) Fowl Cholera; (4) Fowl Typhoid; (5) Limberneck; (6) Tuberculosis; (7) Crop bound, cripples and weak birds; and (8) Water Belly (ascites).

Approved August 17, 1942

C. W. Kitchen

Deputy Director
Food Distribution Administration